

### **ARTICLE III. FIREARMS**

#### **Sec. 7.8-46. Legislative findings; purpose and intent.**

Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148(c)(7)(H)(xiii) charges the Board of Selectmen with the responsibility to “promote the peace, safety, good government and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants.” The Board of Selectmen believes that the misuse of firearms by individuals who are not properly trained and qualified to use them can endanger public health and safety, and that safe storage practices are essential to public welfare. The Board recommends securing firearms and ammunition in a manner that will prevent unauthorized access when not in use, preferably in a locked gun safe or similar enclosure.

#### **Sec. 7.8-47. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this article, certain words are defined as follows:

Firearm: shall have the same meaning as that provided under state law.

Machine Gun: shall have the same meaning as that provided under state law.

Assault Weapon: shall have the same meaning as that provided under state law.

Landowner: means the legal or beneficial owner of a parcel of land, or a tenant of such owner, or an authorized agent or invited guest of such owner or of such tenant.

Target Practice: means shooting a firearm at a fixed or moving object.

#### **Sec. 7.8-48. Prohibition**

(a) No person shall discharge any Machine Gun or Assault Weapon in the town of Weston.

(b) No person shall discharge any Firearm for Target Practice in the town of Weston, except that trapshooting, skeet shooting and shooting at sporting clays with shotguns, in which clay targets are thrown to simulate birds in flight, are permissible exclusively at the Weston Field Club, the Weston Gun Club, or other locations as approved by the Chief of Police and the Board of Selectmen.

(c) No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall discharge any Firearm anywhere in the town of Weston, except that persons between the ages of twelve (12) years and sixteen (16) years may discharge a Firearm for Target Practice pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, provided that such Firearm is discharged in the presence of and under the supervision of the person's parent, legal guardian, school or camp official over the age of eighteen (18).

(d) Nothing in this Section 7.8-48 shall apply to:

(1) Any State or Federal officer authorized to enforce criminal law, or a member of the armed forces of the United States or of the State or Connecticut, or an authorized messenger or bank guard, and only when such person is acting in the performance of his or her duties as such; or

(2) Any person, when acting to defend himself or herself or a third person from physical force in a manner consistent with state law.

#### **Sec. 7.8-49. State and federal regulations applicable.**

Nothing herein shall be construed to permit the use, possession or discharge of any Firearm for any purpose otherwise prohibited or regulated under any statute or regulation of the State of Connecticut or any state agency or the United States Government.

#### **Sec. 7.8-50. Penalty**

Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall be subject to a fine of two-hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for each such violation. This penalty shall apply to the parent or legal guardian of any minor who violates the provisions of section 7.8-48(c).